Sunday, June 22, 2008 ★ Vol. 23 / No. 198 website: www.inquirer.net

Sweeping the world record with biggest broom **SUNDAY BIZ**

Biography of screen legend in search of publisher • Being politician's wife good enough for Dawn Z • Lea scores a first: Show at LA's iconic concert hall **ENTERTAINMENT**

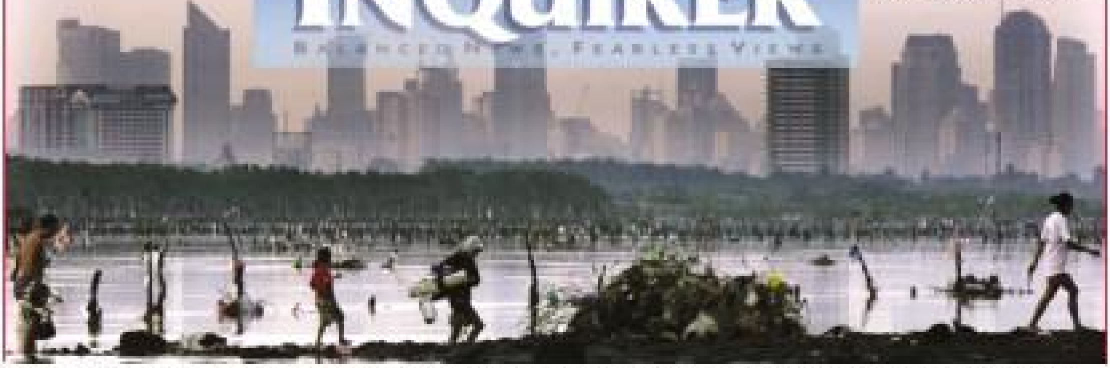
Connect to better people, jobs **JOB MARKET**



• **How Ces Mom** survived ordeal of daughter's abduction; don't say sorry, she tells her, you're home now **LIFESTYLE** / D1

10 ways to make your best workers stay • 2 amazing artists are latest Pinoys to break into US' mainstream comic books • Blissed out and bullish: How spa business is being massaged into vigorous financial health **SUNDAY MAGAZINE**

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



SHELL SHOCK By the looks of the surge in the activity of shell gatherers along the Coastal Road in Parañaque, the business is doing well. Perhaps, the prices of shellfish are going the way of all food and goods.

EDWIN BACASMAS

More evidence vs mayor

'Can you help Ces?' I said yes

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Contributor

I WANTED IT KEPT A SECRET.

But since Sen. Loren Legarda already disclosed it to the media, I might as well give my own account on how crucial the nine days were for the hostages (Ces Oreña Drilon, Jimmy Encarnacion, Angelo Valderama and Prof. Octavio Dinampo) and how real the threat of their beheading was.

When the initial information circulated among reporters and newsrooms that Ces and her crew were missing in Indanan, Sulu, my initial assessment, based on my own experience, was that they were in real danger.

It was in the same town that I was

CAN YOU/A8

Police say Isnaji demanded P15M more from Ces' kin

By Alcuin Papa

EVEN BEFORE MAYOR ALVAREZ Isnaji announced that the kidnappers of ABS-CBN reporter Ces Drilon had demanded P15 million more in ransom, he met with her siblings and told them the amount must be paid to secure her release, according to documents obtained from the Philippine National Police.

This disclosure is part of the "incriminating evidence" compiled by the PNP to pin down the mayor of Indanan, Sulu, who had served as negotiator for the kidnappers, an investigator in the case told the Inquirer yesterday.

In an affidavit, Senior Supt. Reginald Villasanta, PNP Intelligence Group deputy director for operations, said he was present at a June 15 meeting at the Palmeras Hotel in Zamboanga City that started at around 1:30 p.m.

He named the others at the meeting as Isnaji, Drilon's siblings Frank and Grace Oreña, and Chief Supt. Joel Goltiao, police director of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Said Villasanta: "During the meeting, Mayor Isnaji

MORE EVIDENCE/A4



AIR OF MYSTERY This special 5-seater plane arrived at the Jolo airport at about 4 p.m. on June 17. Why? Photographed by the Inquirer disembarking are lawyer Nasser Isnaji, ex-provincial board member of Sulu and Sr. Supt. Julasirim Kasim, Sulu police director. By night, the ABS-CBN team and their guide had been released.

Too many deaths shut down Hanjin

By Inquirer Central Luzon

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) ordered a stop to the operations of the construction units of Hanjin Heavy Industries & Construction Philippines Inc. (HHIC-Phil) on Friday after another worker died.

The death of Mario Arvero, 52, a worker of Hanjin Construction Corp. Ltd. (HCCL), was the third at the Korean shipbuilding site in nine days.

It brought to 12 the number of work-related deaths at the facility since it began operations in 2006.

Hanjin officials said most of the casualties in earlier accidents had been hired by their subcontractors. But Arvero was said to be in the direct employ of HCCL.

"The [safety] situation at the shipyard has become alarming," SBMA administrator Armand Arreza said.

He said HCCL was served the cease-and-desist order at 6 p.m. on Friday, two hours after Arvero was hit and killed by a steel frame that collapsed due to strong winds.

TOO MANY/A6



100 YEARS, 100 NUDES The nine nudes by Napoleon Abueva are part of a hundred nudes made by alumni of the University of the Philippines nine of whom are National Artists to celebrate its centennial. Other National Artists featured together for the first time are Amorsolo, Manansala, Francisco, Joya, BenCab, Legaspi, Imao and Tolentino. Their works are now on exhibit at the Mandarin Suites in Gateway Mall, Araneta Center until June 25. Opening sales grossed P800,000 for the beneficiary UP Alumni Association. (Story on Page A19.)

EDWIN BACASMAS

Village of Sin is quiet, God-loving community

By Kristine L. Alave

DESPITE ITS NAME, THIS "VILLAGE of Sin" harbors no moral reprobates or houses of ill-repute, but is a quiet, God-loving community.

Set up by the late Cardinal and Manila Archbishop, the Jaime Cardinal Sin village in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila, is a peaceful haven in one of the most congested, crime-ridden areas of the capital.

"The problems we get are minimal. There are fights among spouses and petty crimes, but no riots and gang wars, which are usual in the surrounding villages," said parish priest Fr. Mark Micah.

The cardinal's gift is a gift that keeps

VILLAGE/A18

Pinoys go forth and Multiply

By Tessa R. Salazar

FILIPINOS ARE PROLIFIC SOCIAL networking animals.

They are globally known to bash text messaging fans, and have shown the way to "go forth and multiply" in cyberworld.

Filipinos were recently declared the most active in some web-based social network sites.

David Jones, vice president for global marketing of Friendster, was quoted

PINOYS/A18



Entry of women enriches PMA lingo

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—THE Philippine Military Academy's cadet lingo has evolved, surprising even Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen.

ENTRY/A18

Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

EZ2 · SIX DIGIT · SUERTRES · 6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

P1,730,527.00

Abu, high prices, climate on agenda

GMA looking to advance RP interests with Bush on US visit

THE RESURGENCE IN KIDNAPPING ACTIVITIES of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group in Mindanao could be part of the talking points in the meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush on June 24.



GMA visit would boost unequal ties, says Bayan

Protest actions

Worst human rights records

Bro. Ely Soriano charged with raping male follower

Warrant issued

'Frank' wreaks havoc on Visayas, might hit metro

By Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio, Alcuin Papa and Jerome Aning



Gasoline nears ₱60/liter, diesel grazes ₱51 in latest price hike



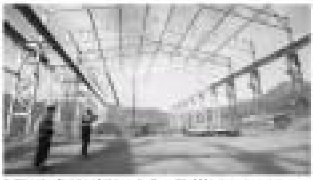
Militants vow more protests against fuel price increases

Palace launches C. Luzon offensive



Yap finds price of rice still steep in Mindanao city

THE DAILY GOSPEL



DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

WHAT WENT BEFORE

Of deaths and violations



Too many deaths shut down ...

Force majeure

July 4 inauguration

Safety requirements

Task Force Hanjin

Trying to minimize deaths

Palace: Up to Comelec to postpone ARMM polls

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS should be the one to determine if it is necessary to postpone the Aug. 11 elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Malacañang said yesterday.

In a phone-patch interview, Press Secretary Jesus Dureza said Malacañang was "not in a position to make a determination one way or the other on the ARMM elections."

"The formal basis will be made by the Comelec itself in matters related to elections," he said.

Dureza said the Comelec should make the "final determination" on the elections for new officials of the ARMM covering the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sharif Kabunsuan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi and the cities of Lamitan and Marawi.

"As an independent constitutional body, it has full control and disposition of matters relating to elections, so we leave that to the Comelec to make that determination," he said.

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez said the poll body was mulling over the postponement of the elections because of the ongoing military strikes in Sulu to hunt the kidnappers of TV newsanchor Ces Drilon and her crew.

But Jimenez said this option would only be resorted to as an "extreme measure."

Dureza said the operations against the Abu Sayyaf could affect the August ARMM polls as the Comelec should ascertain if it would be in the best interest of the electorate in the region to postpone the polls.

"If the security situation is such that from the determination of Comelec it might affect the conduct of the elections, then they will make the appropriate and necessary decision on the part of the Comelec," he said.

Seven bets are vying for the governorship, with incumbent ARMM Gov. Datu Zaldy Uy Ampatuan as the official administration candidate.

In preparation for the ARMM elections, the election watchdog Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) yesterday kicked off a three-day workshop.

PPCRV chair Henrietta de Villa said the activity would synchronize PPCRV's efforts with other government agencies, Muslim civil society organizations and Muslim religious leaders to eliminate the perception of Mindanao as the election cheating capital of the Philippines.

With a report from Jerome Aning

Comelec finds plaint vs Bedol

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) will pursue a criminal complaint against ex-Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol, who disappeared after being implicated in an election fraud case last year.

The Comelec's law department chief Ferdinand Rafanan made the announcement yesterday after department employees found an unsigned draft of a subpoena and criminal complaint against Bedol during a recent inventory of office files.

The draft complaint listed the set of election documents that were lost while stored in Bedol's office in the Maguindanao capital after the May 2007 midterm elections.

Election watchdogs feared the documents were used to manipulate the votes in the senatorial race.

The document found by the employees on Friday was believed to have been prepared by Alioden Dalaig, the former law department head who was shot to death in November 2007.

Rafanan said the department will pursue the criminal case, even though Bedol has been missing for months. "There might be a case before July 15," he said.

The Comelec has not filed a criminal complaint against Bedol even after disclosures of his role in alleged election fraud in the province.

The Comelec did not even issue a subpoena requiring the election officer to produce the lost documents, Rafanan said.

The poll body was only able to hold Bedol for indirect contempt for his refusal to attend the Comelec investigation of the Maguindanao scandal last August.

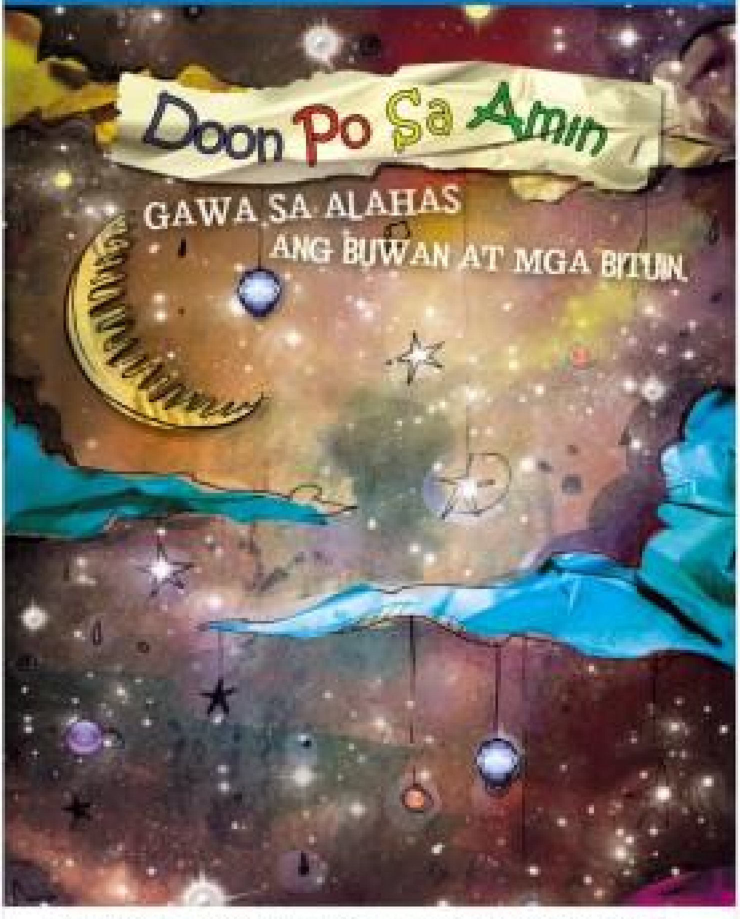
The lost documents case was a bigger, more important case than the contempt charge, which was only "incidental," Rafanan said.

Bedol, he said, could be held liable for failing to attend the Maguindanao canvassing and for failing to account for the ballots, ballot boxes and election paraphernalia he received and placed in his safekeeping.

It was unclear why Dalaig failed to file the complaint against Bedol, Rafanan said. "Maybe if he was not killed, he would have filed it," he said.

Dalaig was gunned down by a hired assassin police later identified to be PO1 Ronie Rosero Respicio in November 2007.

Kristine L. Alave



Police bare more evidence vs Sulu mayor

Secret meeting

Undercover partners

'Something odd'



Contact with Drilon family

Not proof of complicity

'Can you help Ces?' I said yes

Guide to survival

'Will they be hurt?'

'Loren can help'

Conversation with Loren

Keeping mum

We were buddies

Best option

Snubbed again

Different background

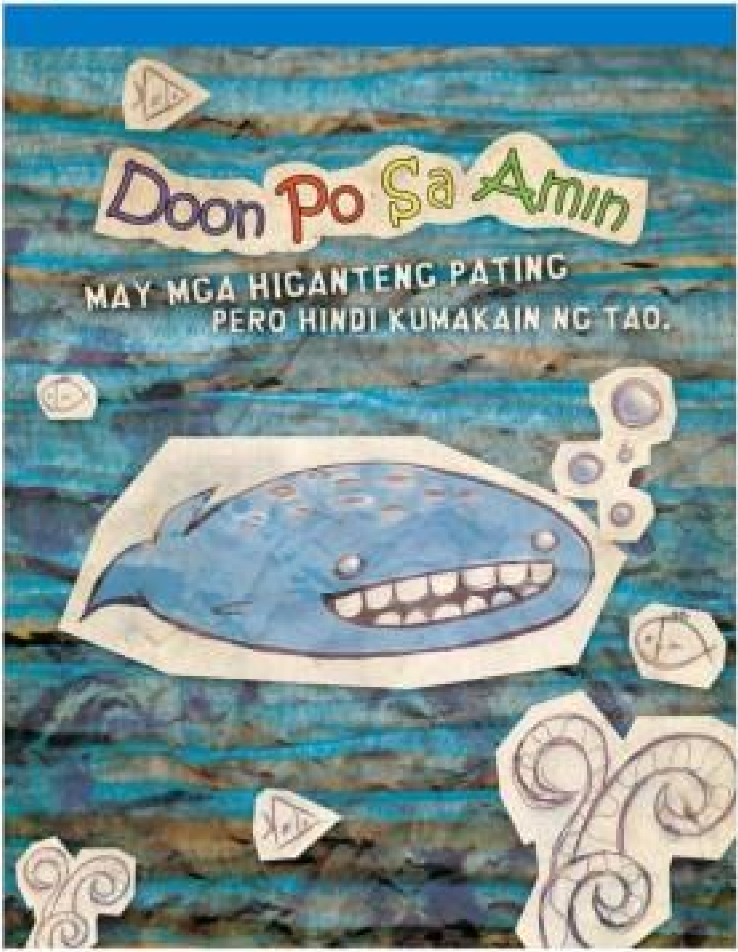
Plant trees on campus, DepEd orders all schools



CHAMPIONING THE ENVIRONMENT

By Nancy Carvajal

Save Mt. Kanlaon trees, Atienza urged





FLORAL TRIBUTES



LIVING LEGACY

Village of Sin is quiet ...

Cardinal rule

New neighbors

People power

Cory at memorial Mass

'Man of contradictions'

Entry of women ...

Kevin who?

First women cadets

Future leaders

No 'We Sir'

Everyone is equal

Pinoys go forth and Multiply

Sheer numbers

Family-, friend-oriented

Lifeline to home

Meeting friends

College buddies

Military won't back off if faced by kid-rebels

16-yr-old just as deadly, says AFP chief

Never stopped

Isolated cases

No adjustments

Heed advisories



UP'S MOST DISTINGUISHED

Environmental group twits Atienza over dumps warning

Shut down open dump

Start penalizing

Hope

Help sought for Pinay accused of dinar theft

Grenade blast wounds 4 cops in Mindanao

3 more hurt

Release

Bill seeks end to ads that exploit



PROMOTING TOURISM

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Most useless junket

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO JETTED OFF to San Francisco en route to Washington and eventually New York, with the objectives of her trip still up in the air. Meetings with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (widely whispered to be no fan of the President) and with candidate Barack Obama (putative nominee of a party critical of her human rights record) have not been confirmed.

And with good reason, which has little to do with the prestige—or lack of it—of our President.



The dignity of public office

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Fear not

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

GMA's legacy in education

With Due Respect

Artemio V. Panganiban



Visit to Daet

At Large

Rina Jimenez-David



White House sex crimes

World View

Naomi Wolf



The stolen

Rebel Without A Cue

Patricia Evangelista



They Said

Pressured apology

Safety of journalists

TALK of the TOWN



Asia's blog stars

By Shefali Rekhi
The Straits Times/ Asia News Network

[illegible]

Front row

[illegible]

Immediate

[illegible]

Pecking order

[illegible]

Survey

[illegible]

Japanese ahead

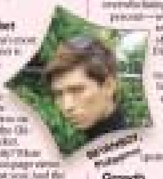
[illegible]

Mobile devices

[illegible]

Stock market

[illegible]



Raising eyebrows

[illegible]

Book offer

[illegible]

Growth

[illegible]

Consequences

[illegible]

THE PHILIPPINES

Bryan Boy

[illegible]

CHINA

Xu Jinglei, 34

[illegible]

TAIWAN

Hu Jia-wei (Wanwan), 27

[illegible]

SINGAPORE

Lee Kin Mun, 38

[illegible]

JAPAN

Naoto Amaki, 60

[illegible]

INDIA

Amit Agarwal, 31

[illegible]

MALAYSIA

Ahiruddin Attan, 47

[illegible]



The Land Transportation Office

"Leading the Pack in the Superhighway of Public Service"

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOR THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ALBERTO H. SUANSING

REFORMS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE:

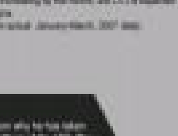




Enforced a strict anti-fixer policy in all LTO offices.

REFORMS TO PROMOTE A BALANCED BUDGET

REFORMS ON TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE (Road Safety)



OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Bert Suansing: The Motorists Champion



'Frank' death toll 12 in 5 provinces

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST A DOZEN PEOPLE died and several others reported missing as Typhoon "Frank" brought floods and landslides in Cotabato City, Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sultan Kudarat and North Cotabato starting Friday, officials said yesterday.

Evacuation

Cotabato casualties

Agricultural losses



Albay folk return home as typhoon spares them

Wrong signal?

Wasted funds

'Frank' winds topple power poles in Samar, parts of Leyte



SULU TRANSPORT

Traders mount protest at Church-run mall

Needed money

Bishops' letter

INQUIRER Mindanao

Costly 'board, lodging' for Sulu guests

Zamboanga City

IF THE PAYMENTS OF RANSOM for the release of ABS-CBN reporter Ces Oreña-Drilon, her two cameramen and a peace advocate were true, then their stay in the jungles of Sulu is more expensive than spending a holiday at the high-priced resort like Amanpulo in Palawan.

[illegible]



[illegible]

Lessons from a kidnapping: Victims should outsmart their captors

By Nash Maulana
Cotabato City

COMMUNICATING USING ONE'S fingernails helped a victim in Central Mindanao's most celebrated kidnapping case in 1981, old court records here reveal.

[illegible]

Marked money

[illegible]



ABS-CBN news anchor Ces Drilon arrives at Camp Teodulfo Bautista in Sulu together with cameraman Jimmy Encarnacion and Mindanao State University professor Octavio Dinampo (not in photo) after their release from their Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

[illegible]

Writings on the wall

[illegible]

Alliance of friends

[illegible]

Text, GPS

[illegible]

US pledges $2.5M for classrooms in Mindanao

Cotabato City

THE UNITED STATES HAS PLEDGED A $2.5-MILlion bilateral aid package to build more classrooms and rehabilitate old school buildings in Mindanao despite the shooting by unidentified men of a US helicopter on a mercy mission near the Polloc port in Parang town in Shariff Kabunsuan on Sunday.

[illegible]

News

Electric jeep leads green drive at Meralco center



THE MULTI-HUED e-jeep which takes employees and guests around the Meralco Development Center in Antipolo City may well be a precursor of what could be on a bigger scale.

AN ELECTRIC JEEP (OR E-jeep) is now roving inside the nine-hectare Meralco Development Center in Antipolo City—a concrete manifestation of the MMLDC's "green" advocacy.

The e-jeep is equipped with a Chinese power engine and runs solely on electricity. It can seat 27 persons and be driven for eight hours after 10 hours of charging time.

According to MMLDC managing director Agnes Fabilena, the e-jeep is used to transport employees and guests around the center.

"It is one of our instruments to stress our concern for the environment. It emits no pollution because it doesn't require fuel to make it run," she said in a statement.

A primary advocacy of MMLDC is a foundation in environmental stewardship, which is anchored on its policy of "Quality, Environment, Safety & Health (QuEHS)," Fabilena said.

The center is also a zero-waste facility with a solid waste management program.

Zero waste is another advocacy of the center, which implements waste segregation in all areas and adheres to the principles of reducing, reusing, composting and reselling or recycling, Fabilena said.

Its integrated approach to being "green" is based on the conviction that everyone should be involved in saving the environment, she said.

"All of these programs have produced some savings for the center. For example, electricity consumption per guest per day fell from 22.5 kilowatt-hours in 2004 to only 16.8 kWh in 2007," Fabilena said.

In the matter of water conservation, MMLDC has been using the dual flush systems and waterless urinals, and reusing water from ponds for watering plants.

Watering of gardens is done at night to minimize absorption.

Energy is conserved through the use of daylight and natural lighting in the residence and residence halls, and the use of solar energy for pathway lights.

"This environmental stewardship also extends to our suppliers," Fabilena said.

Environment-friendly policy

She said the center was implementing "an environment-friendly policy on procurement by selecting products with minimum packaging, thus minimizing wastage to the landfill."

All these efforts constitute MMLDC's "contribution to protect the environment for the benefit of future generations," she said.

The center also trains communities and schools in waste management and the operation of a materials recovery facility using its own as a model.

In 2007, 30 prospective trainers on solid waste management finished a training course and subsequently passed on the knowledge to 180 teachers of Mambugan Central School in Antipolo.

Inquiries on MMLDC's environmental advocacy programs may be made at 632 8111 loc. 304 to 306, e-mail mmldc-marketing@meralco.com.ph, or visit www.mmldc.org.

Baguio cabs burn autogas

BAGUIO CITY—ABOUT 70 TAXIS IN THE city are now using autogas or gasoline combined with liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) amid the rising price of gasoline.

Federico Mandapat Jr., regional director of the Department of Transportation and Communications in the Cordillera, said the DOTC expected more cab operators to shift to autogas, especially those with expiring franchises.

As an incentive, he said the DOTC would give taxis using autogas a 12-year franchise instead of the usual 10 years.

Autogas is a combination of 70 percent diesel or gasoline and 30 percent LPG.

Cabs using autogas have no trouble passing the smoke emission test required by the DOTC, Mandapat said.

It costs between P25,000 and P55,000 to convert vehicles to autogas, he said.

He said jeepneys in the city had yet to convert to autogas because the company that did the conversion had been prohibiting gasoline-fed vehicles.

DOTC records showed that at least 20,000 taxis in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao had converted to autogas.

Mandapat said his office had cited 186 vehicles for smoke-belching this year. None of these were autogas-run taxicabs, he said.

The firm distributing autogas in the city said a taxi operator could save 30 percent more in fuel and repair costs by using autogas. It also said that the engine life of the vehicle is extended because of the cleaner burning fuel.

Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Aplus METRO
Editor: Ester G. Dipasupil



NATIONAL Artist Abdulmari Imao (left) ... at the opening of the "100 Nudes/100 Years" exhibit on Thursday.



OFELIA Gelvezon-Tequi stands in front of her ... works.



RONY Cariño, one of the organizers, ... of the artists featured in the exhibit.



RANDY Solon, who just graduated from the College of Fine Arts this year, ... his work displayed alongside those of national artists.

100 NUDES/ 100 YEARS

Exhibit showcases UP's best artists in last 100 years



By Josephine L. Andrada

THE NUDE PROVOKES ITS viewers to acknowledge the bare truth of the human body.

With that in mind, the University of the Philippines Alumni Association (UPAA) recently launched an art exhibit, "100 Nudes/ 100 Years" featuring the work of graduates of the university among them nine national artists.





GLOBAL Pinoy

SanFo's accounting whiz is Pinay

> Her job is to make sure taxpayers' money in the City by the Bay is spent well

Leaving comfort zone

World heritage site

Summa cum laude



All siblings abroad

Tough to be Asian / female



A cook's own slice of La Dolce Vita

By Bernan Cruz

THERE IS A LOVE STORY COOKED À LA MOVIE "Titanic." It was love found inside a passenger ship, only there were no villains and the tragedy of the sinking of the ship.



ALL TOGETHER NOW Magpilo, Maria Trinidad, and their children Alvin Jay, and Denise Bianca inside their house.



DREAM HOUSE AFTER 11 YEARS Antonio Magpilo, wife Maria Trinidad, and their children Alvin Jay and Denise Bianca enjoy a morning walk past their house in Camella Terrasse in Imus, Cavite.

Stories at sea

Father's day gift



The WORLD

Israel trains for possible strike on Iran

WASHINGTON—ISRAELI JET PILOTS TRAINED for a possible strike on Iranian nuclear sites, US media reported on Friday, sparking a strong warning from Tehran and caution from world leaders.

Iran: Israeli attack 'impossible'

Big crowds cheer summer solstice at Stonehenge



PEOPLE dance on Stonehenge monument, southern England, late Friday, June 20, in anticipation of the mystical moment when the sun rises on Saturday over the stones for the summer solstice.

China raises gasoline prices, angering many

Maoists quit Nepal gov't, demand premier's exit

Supreme Court allows sale of Bell Canada



A JELLYFISH swimming in the Mediterranean

Jellyfish outbreaks a sign of nature out of sync



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 'We'll control the fight' /A24

SPORTS



Red Bull guns for share of PBA lead

TWO TEAMS WITH CONTRASTING FORTUNES clash today as the elimination race continues to tighten in the Smart-PBA Fiesta Conference.

Ongpauco paces BWC qualifiers

RP tankers bag 3 more golds

'We'll control the fight'



Manny 100% fit, says Fernandez

Unfinished interview with Black

IN HUDDLE



TRIPLE CROWN

Indelible Ink favored anew in second leg



RACING TIPS

Ford-TRS eyes racing double



VILLAR CUP

Young pool gun shoots down Bata



Billiards champions sent off in 10-ball tilt

SPORTSWATCH

Best weekend classes slated

Manila cycling kicks off

Olympic Day Run up

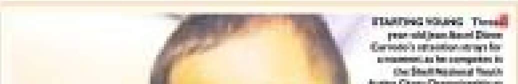
Sunday SPORTS



COMEBACK KINGS

Turkey ousts Croatia, gains semis

Misamis 5 keeps Liga slate clean



Ikeda bows out in quarterfinals

NBA seeks damages from ref

Solar airs Olympic hoop wars

Ex-PSC chief Tuason passes away

No baseball games today



Anton captures Hillclimb crown

Sunday Biz



Energy crisis won't stop Baguio's 'Power Puffs'

By Vincent Cabreza

Mighty river powers up remote village

By Roy S. Fonio

TOBOSO, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—"Isn't this the worst road that you have ever traveled on?" Mayor Ernesto Valencia told officials of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japanese embassy when they arrived in far-flung Sitio Vergara in Bug-ang, his town's most neglected barangay because of its inaccessibility.

> It takes half a day for farmers to bring down on foot one or two sacks of their produce to the barangay-proper 6 kilometers down, while renting a carabao would cost P300

Thought busters

A LEADER'S WAY



John C. Maxwell

THE POWER OF THOUGHT IS INDISputably great. For illustration, look at the life of Henry David Thoreau, a 19th-century Massachusetts philosopher.

In 1849, Thoreau, as a relatively unknown scholar, published his thoughts in a controversial essay about civil disobedience. The essay expressed his ideas about justice:

Not all laws are just.

A person should respect justice more than the law.

Without resorting to violence, a person of conscience is justified to transgress the law to protest its injustice.

Thoughts about thinking

Thoreau's thoughts, as the basis for nonviolent resistance, would end up fueling two of the greatest social advancements of the 20th century—Gandhi's struggle to free India from Britain's colonial rule and the American Civil Rights Movement led by Martin Luther King Jr.

Thoughts never begin fully formed.

Have you ever looked through a microscope? At first glance, the image appears blurry and indistinct. However, after adjusting the lens, the image comes into focus, and you can see with remarkable clarity.

When thoughts enter my mind, they are hazy and disordered, much like the initial image seen through a microscope. I have to fine-tune my thoughts by dwelling upon them, and connecting them to other thoughts I've had. It takes awhile for me to wrestle with a thought before its merit becomes clear.

Thoughts take time to develop their potential.

I am not a naturally brilliant thinker. My mind doesn't overflow with out-of-the-box creativity. However, I do leverage experiences to stretch my thoughts. I have found that reflection turns my experience into insight. At the close of each day, I'll review important lessons I've learned. I'll mine failure until I've gained a nugget of wisdom, or I'll consider how the day's events validated or invalidated one of my ideas. Through time, evaluating my experiences helps my thoughts to expand and mature.

Thoughts take others to develop their potential.

Alone, my thoughts are shallow and uncomplicated. However, I am able to polish and refine them through my interactions with other leaders. I enhance my own thinking by piggybacking on the wisdom of friends and colleagues. In conversations or observations of their behavior, I strengthen and confirm my own hunches about leadership and life.

Each of us is trapped inside our own perspective and limited by blind spots and prejudices. If we isolate ourselves, we diminish our minds, and our thoughts atrophy.

We are wise to seek out others to test our assumptions and sharpen our thinking.

Thoughts are very fragile in the beginning.

Gardeners know the delicate nature of a newly planted seedling. To survive, the plant must receive nourishment and be protected from harsh winds, weeds, or hungry animals. Until its roots take hold and its stem grows, the seedling is vulnerable.

Likewise, our thoughts are fragile at first. They are endangered by prejudices, busy-ness, insecurity, forgetfulness, and ot[illegible] other threats. In the words of Bob [illegible] "Ideas are like soap bubbles floating [illegible] air close to jagged rocks on a windy da[illegible]

In order to grow, our thoughts [illegible] careful attention and cultivation.

Thought busters

Thoughts only reach their potentia[illegible] healthy environment. During my tim[illegible] leader, I've encountered the followin[illegible] circumstantial hazards, or thought bu[illegible] which threaten to destroy good thinki[illegible]

Criticism

When leaders pay any cost to wa[illegible] criticism, they sacrifice their [illegible] thoughts. In the words of Elbert Hub[illegible] "If you have something others don't [illegible] know something others aren't doing, the[illegible] assured, you will be criticized." [illegible] opinion, thinking requires boldness[illegible]

Energy crisis won't stop Baguio's 'Power Puffs'

From page B1

public open access, which allows other groups to compete with franchise holders.

Former Youth Rep. Edgar Avila is the firm's vice chair and legal counsel. Retired professor Bienvenido Balweg, brother of the slain rebel priest, Conrado Balweg, is a board member.

Balweg said the emerging economic crisis has emboldened them to set up a separate rural electric utility because the city's senior citizens wanted to correct what they perceive to be operational weaknesses in Beneco.

He said the Baeleo would use existing power systems because these represent P517 million worth of equity owned by Baguio consumers, who are members of Beneco.

Balweg, who belongs to a group of residents critical of Beneco, said this represents the amount of money charged to consumers, which Beneco used to amortize its loans.

Gerardo Verzosa, Beneco general manager, said the cooperative would not stand in Baeleo's way. He said competition has become even more crucial to efforts aimed at reducing power rates because power distributors in the provinces would soon have to compete by pricing down the electricity they sell or service.

But he said rural electric cooperatives are first observing how government would bring down the cost of power in Metro Manila.

"[The Manila Electric Co., the country's largest power distributor] is our benchmark," he said, because the Lopez-led firm serves the most number of consumers in a single franchise area.

But Meralco has been criticized for charging electricity rates that are higher than those charged in the provinces.

Like most industries, "the amount [a power utility must] charge [the consumer] is related to the volume it sells," Verzosa said.

Beneco only transmits 50 megawatts of power to Benguet, compared to Meralco's 5,400 MW each day.

Beneco charges an average of P7.32 for a 46-kWh consumption.

Verzosa said setting up a new rural electric cooperative would also have to address a few gray areas in Epira.

The law is not clear as to whether a newly formed distribution firm can buy out or disrupt the franchise owned by an existing power utility, he said.

Beneco's franchise would last for another 13 years and Baeleo would have to seek congressional approval to win either a new franchise or to discontinue the existing contract, he said.

Baguio consumers, including commercial firms based here, have also been subsidizing Beneco's lifeline beneficiaries (poor consumers who are granted discounted rates by Epira).

"They have to know that 73 percent of Benguet are lifeline consumers, so the act may be taken as bad faith by Benguet," Verzosa said.

He said Baeleo could take advantage of a provision in Epira that allows investors to operate as "aggregators." These are investors who may offer power distribution services to small firms, shopping malls or subdivision areas, which are now granted the right to choose their own power distributors under Epira's open access policy.

Balweg's group is not discounting these new options. On June 11, it resolved to activate a research task force that would study the legal, technical and fiscal effects of its venture.

...courage to be second-guessed, and readiness to endure conflict.

Lack of commitment to think

"Taking action is by no means a negative quality in a leader. However, when a leader is all action, it's only a matter of time until he or she falls behind, runs off course, and surrenders the reins of leadership. I like Gordon MacDonald's appeal to mental fitness:

"In our preoccupied society, people who are out of shape mentally usually fall victim to ideas and systems that are destructive to the human spirit and to the human relationship. They are victimized because they have not taught themselves how to think, nor have they set themselves to the lifelong pursuit of growth of the mind. Not having the faculty of a strong mind, they grow dependent upon the thoughts and opinions of others."

As leaders, thinking keeps us in front. Before we shape the future, we must get our minds in shape.

Excuses

"I don't have enough time," has been my most common excuse to avoid thinking. However, blaming time constraints is not a legitimate excuse. After all, a great idea is one of the greatest commodities a person can own. Besides, by taking the time to think, we invent smarter ways to expend our energy and resources.

"I'm not creative," has been another excuse of mine. Of course, blaming my lack of creativity is actually a cover excuse for being lazy. Thinking well isn't easy. It takes concentration, focus, and, most challenging of all, the discipline to stop running for a few moments.

For information on John Maxwell's Leadership seminars, e-mail bingtorio@gmail.com or call 0920-849-2702. Have a Blessed Sunday!

Mighty river powers up . . .

From page B1

trained to form and manage their own cooperative to run the project under the name Sitio Negros Magsaysay Development Cooperative or Nenadeco which now has over 100 members consisting of farmers and hacienda workers. Thus, when the power plant was finally commissioned on May 30, it was a cause for celebration comparable to a feast, with fireworks in the middle of the day, loud dance music blaring from a karaoke machine, and a roasted pork especially featured and seasoned with lemongrass served as the main course. Residents dedicated and sang a song to the tune of "Morning Sunbeam" in gratitude. Overwhelmed by the outpouring, the Japanese official belted out the theme song from the popular Japanese cartoon series "Voltes V" to the crowd's glee.

The project, dubbed "Sinaw Negros," is an innovative poverty reduction project to pilot renewable energy and livelihood development in poor off-grid rural communities. There will be 11 renewable energy systems built, consisting of micro-hydro power plants, solar/biomass hybrid systems, and hydraulic ram pump systems. The three micro-hydro power plants will have an aggregate output of 85 kW that will run rice and corn mills and energize 500 homes.

> The pumps will benefit 360 families in six sitios who will have daily water supply of almost 500,000 liters

Besides the micro-hydro power plant in Toboso, another 32-kW micro-hydro power plant, with a project cost of P7.6 million, was commissioned in Sitio Balua, Barangay Lago-an, Municipality of Calatrava. In August, the 21-kW micro-hydro power plant in Barangay Bacbac will likewise be commissioned. The two solar/biomass hybrid systems in Molocaboc and Mayeng Islands will have a drying capacity of 500 kilos of marine products per day, creating a ready market for the fish catch for the fishermen in the two communities. The hydraulic ram pumps will benefit 360 families in six sitios who will have a daily water supply of almost 500,000 liters for household and school use and to irrigate farms.

An important component of the project besides the renewable-energy project is the provision for livelihood activities, under a microcredit fund known as "Sinaw Fund" to be managed by the Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation. It will provide residents up to P5,000 in loan for electricity connection and livelihood development to purchase fertilizer, carabao, etc. at very low interest rates and a flexible repayment schedule.

Gov. Isidro Zayco has been pushing for the building of hydroelectric plants. There is an energy shortage in this province, resulting in rotating power outages which have already damaged household appliances and electrical equipment. Since the province is endowed with seven large rivers and abundant rains even during summer, it has a huge potential for hydroelectric power. There is so much rain that it is easy to plant "tubo" which produces sugar, hence the town's name "Toboso."

In Toboso town, they used to rely on the use of kerosene, batteries, candles, and traditional biomass fuel for their electricity. Now, with the commissioning of the P7.4 million 32-kW micro-hydro power plant tapping the Bulanon River, households can use CFL light bulbs at night so that students can study and homemakers can perform chores without inhaling toxic fumes from kerosene lamps. The grain mill operation will boost the production of rice and corn in the area, reduce the cost of processing and milling in nearby town, Escalante, and ensure better market and price for their products. All these at only a cost of P5.50 per kWh, which is cheaper than the cost of buying kerosene which is P44 per liter, or almost P280 in monthly savings per average household. With the improved disposable income, and the availability of group funds, some members can now engage in backyard livestock raising.

At the inauguration rites, ADB principal energy specialist Yongping Zhai acknowledged the people behind the project, from the Japanese government who funded it, the Department of Energy who is the executing agency, and Winrock International who implemented it. "But even with the equipment, with all the expertise we have, we cannot do it without you. Thanks to you, we have been able to achieve it," he told Nenadeco members and residents who had gathered for the commissioning ceremony.

"What makes this project even more remarkable than just another energy project is that it is environment-friendly to nature," Kohei Noda, financial attaché of the Japanese embassy noted.

"Dang sadu ala. Wala kami sangat sa suda kinsing namang amongod Itong kabila dumating dito. Bang muo bing kami sa gobyerno, manigid, nobiato sigues kami ng 50 years. Mga isa pang lang sa... ...ito. Kung di kayo ang tumulong, we will not be able to improve our lives and we would not have had a chance to improve our lives if they had not reached us here. If we rely on the government, it would take long, maybe 50 years. This project only took two years before it materialized," says Rico Rivera, Nenadeco cooperative president. He has resigned from his job as hacienda worker to work full-time at the co-op.

Residents in Sitio Negros can now end their isolation with their river-powered electricity in place. "While the electricity will not totally solve the community's isolation due to the existing bad roads, the presence of electricity will boost agricultural production and economic activities that will eventually get the attention of local leaders and business interest resulting in more development interventions in the area," says Jim Orpesto, of Winrock International.

He also noted other benefits that the project will bring. "Students can study better, indoor pollution will be reduced, productive use of renewable energy for agri-based livelihood projects will be promoted, the environment will be protected to ensure sustainable operation of the micro-hydro power plant, agricultural productivity and income will increase, and food security, the overall quality of life will be improved," he added.

(The author is an ADB national officer.)

The Power to WeRoam

APC's Jim Tobojka on PLDT WeRoam





Montecito: Visionary Planning Fulfilled







Sunday Biz

Going for world record with ‘biggest broom’



FEATURES IN BRIEF

DOT taps new big foreign markets

UCC employs Punlaan graduates

New ice cream innovation

Tenants get preview of SM's 31st mall











Rural banks share ATM success stories

Going for world record . . .



Prime product

Competitors



World record





COFFEE seedlings

Coffee quality via R & D

[illegible]

Somatic embryogenesis

[illegible]

Great seed, new beginnings

[illegible]

Expo showcases Pinoy's entrepreneurial spirit

[illegible]

Experience from past firm helps exec in new venture

[illegible]



RETIRED Ayala Land top man Francisco Licuanan III

'You have to find something that consumes you, that makes you want to wake up in the morning'

[illegible]

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Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan



BOBBIT and Jackie enjoying the Bula Tea. Both believed that "combining the will of the patient with the skill of the physician is a powerful combination."

Through sheer strength of spirit, Bobbit Suntay is moving on by helping others

Widower lives with the loss

By Rowena C. Burgos

THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE AND my inspiration" is how Robert "Bobbit" Suntay describes his late wife, Jessica "Jackie" Fernandez.

From 2003-2005, Jackie battled ovarian cancer. At 35, she succumbed to the disease. "Despite the challenges she had to face, Jackie remained upbeat, selfless and generous," Bobbit recalls.

What was more unnerving was that Jackie, her father and Bobbit's dad were diagnosed within six months of each other. All three died within a year.

While all this would have broken people of weaker spirit, Bobbit's strength of character still shone through. Today, he is determined more than ever to give hope to cancer patients and their loved ones through Cancer Resource and Wellness Community (Carewell), which he and Jackie put up in 2005.

Foundation of hope

Carewell is a nonprofit foundation that provides support, education and hope to persons suffering from cancer, and their loved ones. It was inspired by The Wellness Community (TWC) in Boston, the largest international community-based psychosocial support organization for cancer patients. TWC has 22 facilities in the United States, and one each in Israel and Japan.

It was while Jackie was having medical treatment at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, in 2003 that a hospital social worker recommended TWC.

"The doctors will take care of Jackie's body. You need a group who will take care of her heart and soul," the social worker told the couple.

After Jackie died in 2005, Bobbit continued going to TWC.

"Immediately, you feel you're not alone," Bobbit says. "You know there's someone who can relate to what you're going through and walk along with you as you go through the cancer journey."

Believing the quality of both their lives had been substantially enhanced by their participation in TWC's programs, the couple envisioned a similar center in the Philippines.

Carewell was incorporated in 2005, had a soft opening in 2006 and became fully operational in 2007. It is TWC's first and so far only international affiliate in Southeast Asia.

The center follows the Patient Active concept of Dr. Harold Benjamin, TWC founder. According to Benjamin: "Combining the will of the patient with the skill of the physician is a powerful combination."

Located on the sixth floor of S & L Bldg., cor. De la Rosa and Esteban Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati, Carewell also operates at Veterans Memorial Hospital, Makati Medical Center, Asian Hospital, The Medical City and soon, St. Luke's Medical Center and St. Cabrini Hospital in Batangas, where support group meetings, counseling and wellness activities like yoga, qi gong, Reiki, art classes, centering prayer and health talks are scheduled.

Seven physicians, three counselors and a group of professionals who help with fund development, administration and wellness programs offer their services at no cost to Carewell at least once a week. Pamphlets and DVDs are given free to members and affiliated institutions.

Carewell raises funds through concerts, art shows and bazaars, where it sells items such as mugs, coffee package, cost and entrance shopping bags, scarves, green tea scents, books, T-shirts, water bottles and bullet bands. Its magazine, "The Carewell Com-

WIDOWER E3





RAISING HARD-TO-FEED KIDS

Silliman University's Alpha Phi Omega reunion set

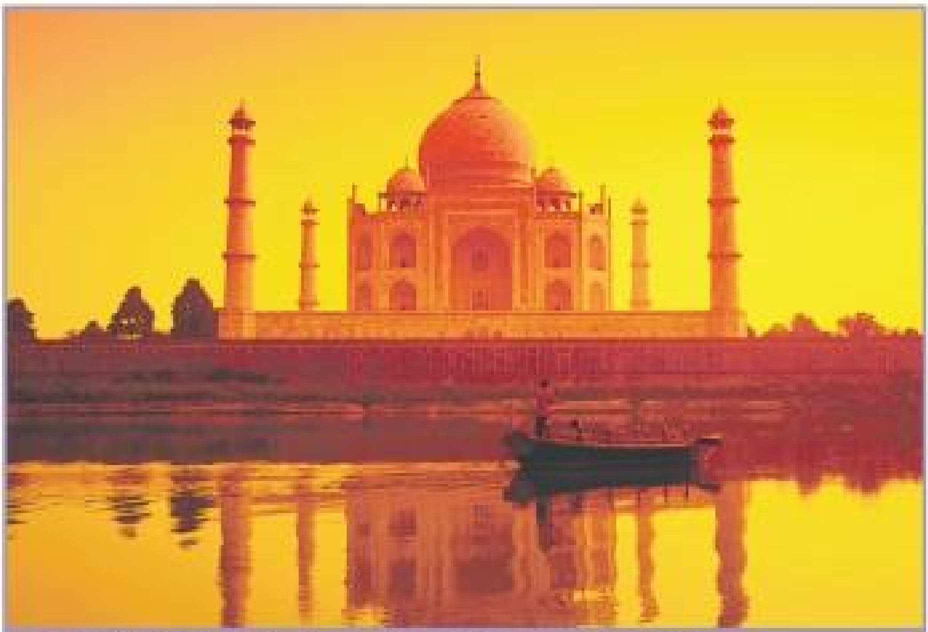
Maryridge reunion

GOINGS ON

Int'l yoga teacher in Manila

English 101

Japanese cooking



Taj Majal, shrine to love

UNESCO has described it as 'the jewel of Muslim art in India'

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Myth

Widower lives with the loss

From page C1



Coping with loss



JACKIE and Bobbit on their wedding day in 1996

Blind date





Power of three



San Lorenzo Global Hour for Filipino migrants launched

PURELY PERSONAL

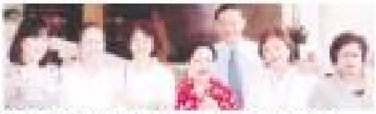


Josephine Darang

Modern diaspora

Business plan

Benefit in Manila



Verzosa family reunion

Tabernacle alert



Aren't you happy that your wayward husband is all yours again?

EMILY'S POST



Emily A. Marcelo

PERPLEXED

Sunday LifeStyle

How Ces' mom survived ordeal of daughter's abduction

'Don't say sorry,' Lulu Oreña told her repentant daughter. 'You're home now'

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

I WAS ALWAYS AGAINST HER going to Mindanao because I knew it was very dangerous," Lulu Oreña told me a few hours before Ces was to check out of The Medical City. [illegible]

[illegible]

Sheer torture

[illegible]

NEXT PAGE

Sunday Lifestyle Do-it-yourself

D.I.Y.



Scented home spray

THIS DIY ACTIVITY IS AN easy way to freshen up your home with a floral or fruity scent. Make your own scented water and use as room sprays, linen sprays, finger bowls and even with burners to scent a room.

This idea comes handy when you are left with floral arrangements that are about to die. Here we are using roses.





Today's 'it' wedding venue











How Ces' mom survived ordeal of daughter's . . .

Spanish trade fair, food fest in Baguio



Green and gracious Cebu wedding

Cebu Cebu

Jaime Picornell





'Flores de Montebello'

Guest artist

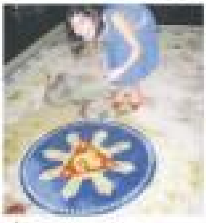
Dancing for and toasting the country I love

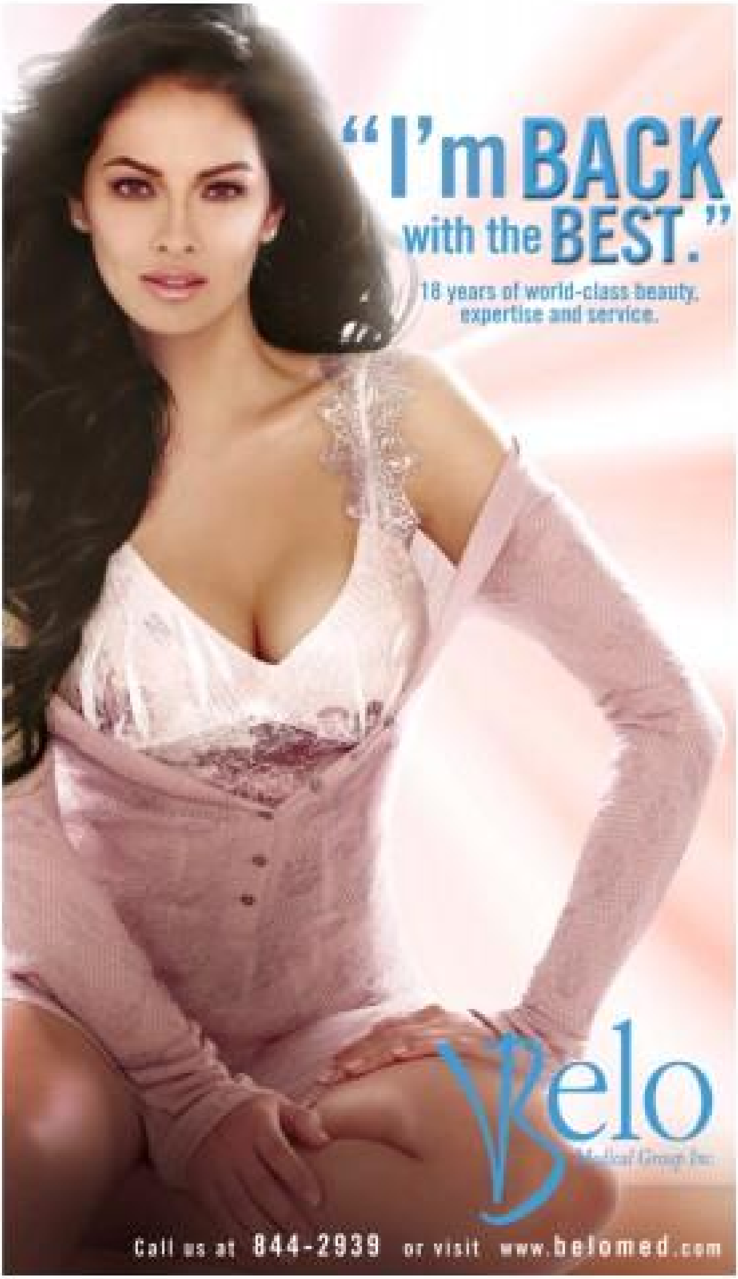


I got invited to the traditional Vin d'Honneur at Malacañang Palace—and I was torn over which 'terno' to wear

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

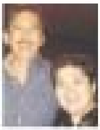






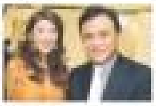


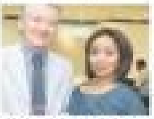




Dancing for and toasting the country I love















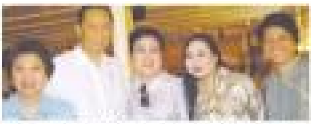




Behind-the-scenes of every langhap-sarap serving



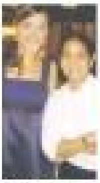














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MARK Jones, Citi's country business manager



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MAU, the soccer star



Jerry, the black belter



Migs, champion of the hoops

Nica, the student leader



Sari, the future reporter



ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bayani San Diego Jr.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Mona Lisa's bio in search of a publisher** Inquirer Exclusive /F5
- **Lea sets show in iconic Disney concert hall** Only in Hollywood /G1







Why U2 is not RP-bound

By Pocholo Concepcion

THE WIDELY RUMORED U2 concert in Manila won't happen this year. It's not pushing through.

[illegible]

"The problem is, we're being required to hold it in a 100,000-capacity stadium, which we don't have," explained Lozano, who's also president of MTV Philippines.

[illegible]

Keys to MoA

[illegible]

Of flicker piracy, 'film-napping'

Seminar tackles rampant theft in movie industry

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

EVEN MOVIES CAN be held hostage, according to a recent seminar on flicker piracy and "film-napping."

[illegible]

Arrests difficult

[illegible]

Send in the clones, please

By the Entertainment Staff

You're so vain

Sweet Ingrian vs Straight-Talking Vilma



ROXANNE Guinoo and John Gomez

More tests for Amy

Sexiest vegans

J.Lo's surprise



AMITABH Bachchan, Asia's Sexiest Vegetarian Man



FAYE Wong, Asia's Sexiest Vegetarian Woman

RUSHES SUNDAY

Top of the tabloids





DINGDONG Dantes



ANGEL Locsin

Gabby golden

Truth or dare

For the love of...

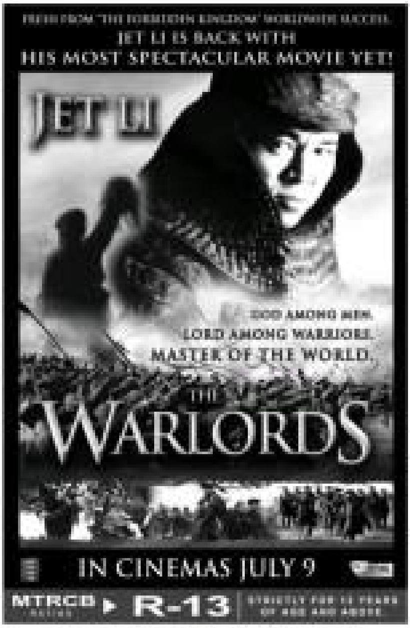
American Tony winner Lin-Manuel Miranda has close Filipino friends

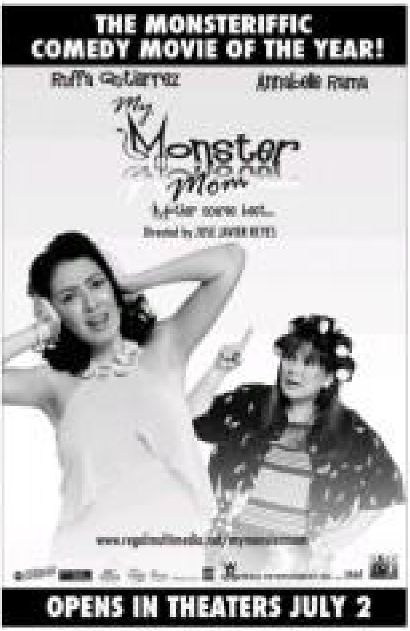
FEEDBACK

Jolens' defense

Have a heart

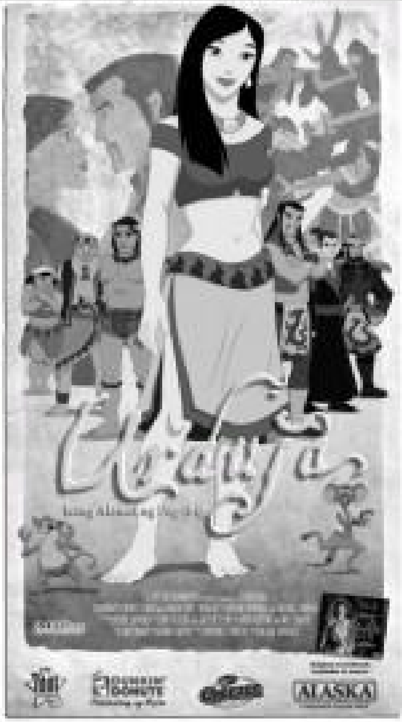












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5 VICTORY
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7 THE HAPPENING
8 IndieSine: HUSOT
9 MADE OF HONOR
10 URDUJA / NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN



ERMITA

1 URDUJA
2 MADE OF HONOR
3 ALTERED
4 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 KUNG FU PANDA
7 GET SMART
8 CARE GIVER
9 THE HAPPENING

METRO EAST

1 ALTERED
2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
3 KUNG FU PANDA
4 MADE OF HONOR
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6 THE HAPPENING
7 GET SMART
8 URDUJA

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2 GETSMART
3 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
4 MADE OF HONOR

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3 GET SMART
4 MADE OF HONOR

ANGELES

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2 URDUJA
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 GET SMART

STARMILLS

1 URDUJA
2 MADE OF HONOR
3 CARE GIVER
4 GET SMART
5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

BACOLOD

1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
2 GET SMART
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 KUNG FU PANDA
5 DECEPTION
6 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN

ILOILO

1 GET SMART
2 SEX AND THE CITY
3 MADE OF HONOR
4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
5 NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN
6 KUNG FU PANDA

Memoirs of a Mona Lisa



By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WITH CHARACTERISTIC candor, screen legend Mona Lisa sums up her biography: "It's a diary book!"

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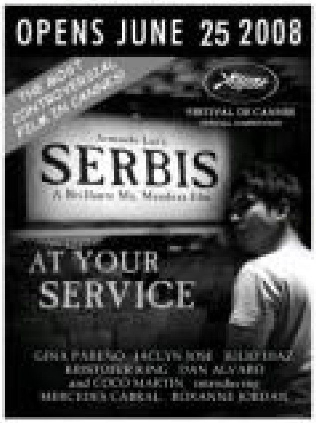
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

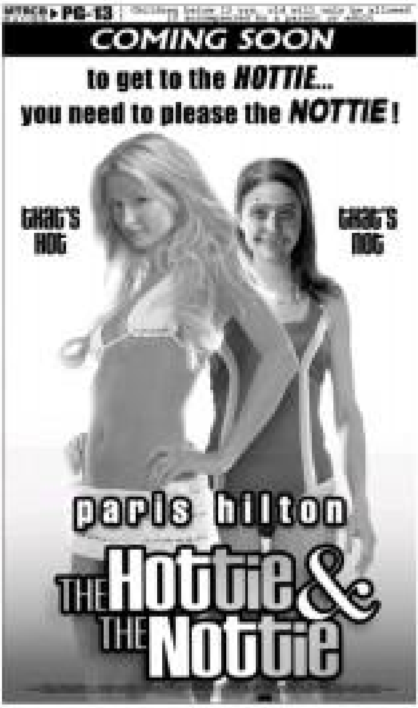
Biography of screen legend and local movies' original 'Prinsesa Urduja' is in search of a publisher

Precious tales

[illegible]

(Email: bayanisandiego@hotmail.com)





Why U2 . . .

From page F1

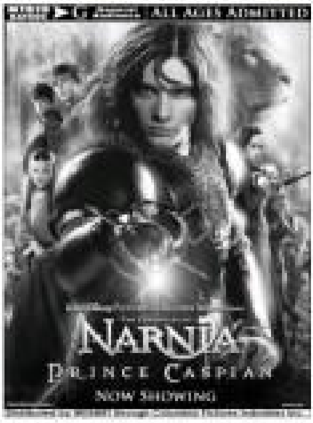
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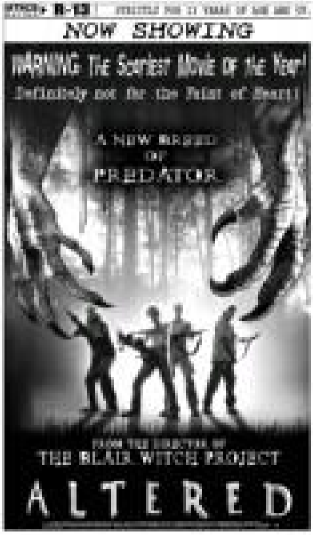
Flicker piracy . . .

From page F1

[illegible]









Being a politician's wife enough for Dawn







ENTERTAINMENT

Another first for Lea: a show in iconic LA hall

Plus, 'Mamma Mia,' the movie version, is terrific!

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD



Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—On July 11, Lea Salonga becomes the first Filipino performer to have a solo show at the Walt Disney Concert Hall—architect Frank Gehry's billowing steel-clad masterpiece that has become LA's modern landmark and favorite setting of several recent Hollywood movies, including "Iron Man" and "Get Smart."

In a luncheon reception held at the Founders Room last Thursday, key staff members of the Music Center, of which the iconic concert hall is a part of, announced Lea's concert which also ... as milestone: it is the first in a series of shows titled "Global Pop at the Music Center" which will feature popular performers from around the world.

Since it opened in 2003 as the new home of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra, the hall draws visitors from different countries who are eager to see Gehry's gleaming architectural gem. Every day there are folks taking pictures of the unique structure from different angles.

Josephine Ramirez, the Music Center's vice president for programming and planning, who presided over the announcement in the Founders Room (notable for its ...—another distinctive Gehry touch), said the Center is excited to be presenting an award-winning Broadway and pop entertainer like Lea to kick off the "Global Pop" series. She thanked Filipino community leaders, including Joel Jacinto and Winston Emano, for their advice and support.

With its acclaimed acoustics, the concert hall is the perfect venue for Filipinos and other concertgoers to really appreciate the world-class talents of Lea, the only Pinoy artist who made a clean sweep of the Olivier, Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics and Theater World Awards. This opportunity is akin to Lea's once-in-a-lifetime debut at New York's famed Carnegie Hall in 2005. We were fortunate to have experienced that excellent concert.

Now, here's a rare chance to see the pioneering Filipino performer in a setting that is just as prestigious. Tickets to the show on Friday, July 11 at 8:30 p.m. are available at www.ticketmaster.com or by email: globalpop@musiccenter... groups, strong



LEA Salonga at her recent concert, "My Life Onstage."

ANOTHER/G4



MERYL Streep (center) leads Christine Baranski (left), Julie Walters (right) and village women in singing "Dancing Queen" in the movie version of "Mamma Mia."



Another first for Lea...

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AT THE CINEMAS

GLORIETTA 1	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 ALTERED	4 URDUJA
GLORIETTA 4	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 GET SMART	3 GET SMART	
	4 THE HAPPENING	5 KUNG FU PANDA	6 MADE OF HONOR	7 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
GREENBELT 1	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 GET SMART		
	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 GET SMART	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK		
	3 MADE OF HONOR	4 KUNG FU PANDA	5 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 GET SMART	2 MADE OF HONOR	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4 THE INCREDIBLE HULK
MARKET! MARKET!	1 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	2 KUNG FU PANDA		
	3 URDUJA	4 MADE OF HONOR	5 GET SMART	
TRINOMA	1 URDUJA	2 THE INCREDIBLE HULK	3 KUNG FU PANDA	4
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AT THE MALLS

'Pinoy Idol' and 'Dream Academy' compared

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Lost points

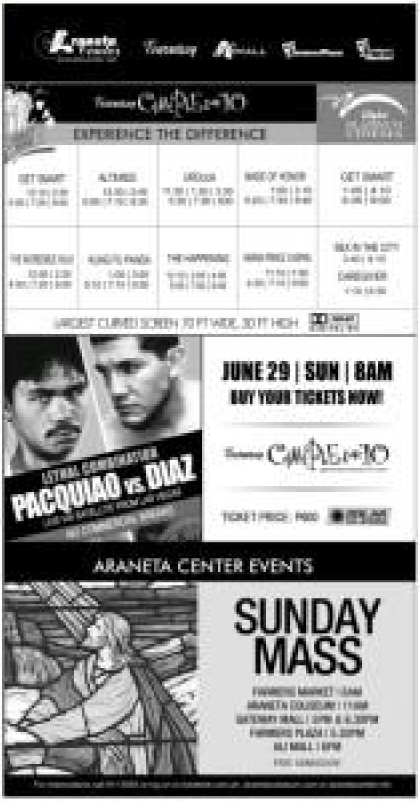
Feedback



SPIN

KC jams with Pinikpikan

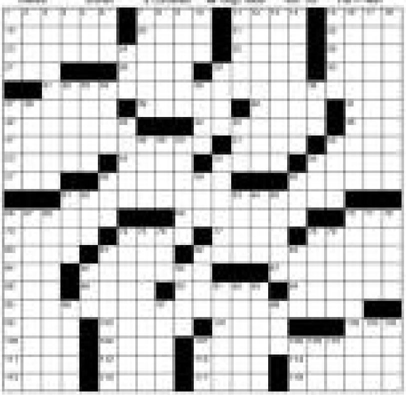
Surprising



SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD / By Frank A. Longo

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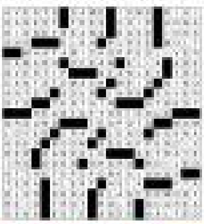
answer on page G4

Steve Carell gets smarter



GETTING real with a small fan at "Get Smart" premiere, Westwood, CA., June 16. AP PHOTO

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



LOS ANGELES—STEVE CARELL is up to the challenge of stepping into the shoes of Don Adams, who played super-spy Maxwell Smart in the movie version of the iconic 1960s television series "Get Smart."

"I was a fan of the show as a little kid," said the star of the comedy movie "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," the award-winning indie film "Little Miss Sunshine" and the acclaimed TV series, "The Office." Carell added that he and his friends used to do Don Adams impersonations. "It was just one of those shows that everybody clung to."

Daunting offer

The actor then found the offer to do "Get Smart" daunting, because he might not do it the right way.

"I want to pay homage, I want to honor the original. But I didn't want to do an impression of Don Adams because I didn't think there was any other way to emulate what he did," Carell said. "He's [illegible] was so definitive."

Also starring in the homage—not a complete copy of the beloved TV show—are Anne Hathaway as Agent 99, Dwayne Johnson as Agent 23, Alan Arkin as the Chief, Terence Stamp as the evil enemy syndicate head Siegfried, and Ken Davitian ("Borat") as his sidekick Shtarker, James Caan in a hilarious send-up of President [illegible] and Masi Oka ("Heroes"). It is directed by Peter Segal ("The Longest Yard," "50 First Dates").

Segal told us in an earlier interview that Carell was not very light on his feet, not a very good dancer, which was why the comedian had a hard time doing the dance scene. Carell, when asked to react about Segal's comments, shot back with a smile, "Well, let's just [illegible] I will just throw that back in his face. How about that, Peter?"

Carell explained that all the dance sequences were "very well choreographed" and they took some time working on. "We really had to learn how to ballroom dance. It was fun for me because it's one of those quintessential spy movie scenes in a big ballroom of a mansion during a big party."

In addition to the glamorous ballroom scene, "Get Smart" features gadgets that are high-tech innovations of the ones displayed in the 60s series, and exotic locations, mostly in Europe.

Did Carell, like agent Max who did not get his promotion at Control (the movie's US spy agency), ever miss some kind of opportunity or chance in his life?

"Honestly, the one time I felt like I would miss my dream was asking Nancy (Walls) to be my wife," he replied. "That, I was worried about. So I went for it. That would have been the biggest loss, if I'd missed that chance."

Bad at hiding

Carell does not think he has the makings of a good spy himself as he is very bad at hiding his feelings. Any sort of high-tech gadgetry would also be lost on him, he said, confessing to be less than proficient in simple tools as the computer or the cell phone.

> 'I was a fan of the show; I want to pay homage, but not to do an impression of Don Adams'

As for any incidents that happened while filming any of the action scenes, he revealed: "To keep in the action [illegible] villain in the movie (portrayed by Dalip Singh, of "The Longest Yard") was hard. At one point, we got our signals crossed in terms of who was supposed to punch whom. And he almost took my head off my body. When he makes a fist, it is the size of a ham. It is enormous. When you shake his hand, you are actually shaking the inside of his palm (laughs). So he is just an enormous physical presence. That was one of those moments that my life flashed before my eyes and I thought I was [illegible] actually being killed."

He added, "One punch from this guy would have done it. But I did a lot of the stunts. It was fun. I thought I have to just fool around, play and hang on wires. In one scene, I dive into the side of a bus and our director asked, 'Well, could you hit the side of the bus with your face and then slide down the glass windows of the bus?' And on the first take, I slammed so hard that I broke the glass of the side of the window," Carell deadpanned. "I was very proud of that."

We pointed out that one of the similarities between him and agent Max is that success came late both in their lives. What was it like to become famous and successful late in his life and still be focused on it, we asked.

"No, I never focused on it," he answered firmly. "I never considered it really. It just follows my lap. It is sort of hard to describe because I also do not take it very seriously. I know that as quickly as success came, it can go away. So I kind of put it aside and I did not generally acknowledge it. Even to hear you say that makes me squirm a little bit because I don't really believe it."

An actor's concern

The 45-year-old actor, who lives in Los Angeles with wife Nancy Walls ("Saturday Night Live"), and their two children, added: "Honestly the biggest part of the success that I enjoy is knowing that my kids' education is taken care of and that they have a nice place to live. That was always my concern, as an actor."

Carell, who did not have to audition for "Get Smart" (he was floored when the producers simply offered the role), continued, "Auditioning is really hard. And facing rejection on a daily basis is difficult. You grow a very thick skin. So when people just offer you parts and say 'We would like you to do this movie, or, this TV show,' that is new. It is very relaxing. But I don't expect that to necessarily continue." [illegible]